



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
Library Assistants' Association.

Vol. 2.

MAY, 1901.

No. 20.

L.A.A. MEETINGS—HORNSEY, LONDON, MOSS SIDE.

CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARIES (*Illustrated*).

L.A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE—PROFESSIONAL AND COURSE
EXAMINATIONS.

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NOTICES, ADDRESSES OF OFFICERS, ETC.

... SOME COTGREAVE LIBRARY AIDS ...

A FEW TESTIMONIALS.

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N.B.—See also "Greater London," by E. Walford, M.A., F.S.A. (page 360); "Methods of Social Reform," by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., F.R.S., LL.D.; "Public Libraries," by T. Greenwood, F.R.G.S.; &c. &c.

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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. SIXTH SESSION. YEAR 1900-1901.

Members are requested to read carefully the announcements appearing on this and the following pages, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements may be expected.

MAY MEETING.

The eighth meeting of the session will be held by the kind invitation of Mr. Thomas Johnston, the Librarian, at the Hornsey Central Library, on Wednesday, May 8th, when Mr. J. W. Brown, of Cardiff, will read a paper on "Fiction in Public Libraries and its readers." Light refreshments will be provided, and the Library will be open to inspection at 6.30 p.m. whilst its ordinary work is proceeding. The meeting will commence promptly at 7.30, the first business being the election of two members to audit the accounts of the Library Assistants' Association. A hearty welcome is extended to the members and their friends, and it is hoped that a large number will take this occasion to visit the pleasant suburb of Hornsey. There are frequent trains from King's Cross, Moorgate Street, and Broad Street Stations.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Sixth Annual Meeting will be held, by the kind permission of Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, at 20 Hanover Square, at 8 p.m., on June 19th next.

All nominations for Officers and Committee, and all notices of motion and proposed amendments to the Rules of the Association, must be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary, *pro tem.*, on or before May 25th next, so that they may be sent out with the Annual Report in the June journal.

Nominations for Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, ten London and ten country members of Committee, may be made by any member.

APRIL MEETING.

The seventh meeting of the session was held on Wednesday, April 17th, at the Chelsea Polytechnic, when Mr. J. Henry Quinn, Chief Librarian of Chelsea Public Library, delivered a practical and interesting address on Cataloguing, provoking a good deal of useful discussion amongst the members present. A hearty vote of thanks was carried by acclamation to Mr. Quinn for his kindness in showing the members round the Library, describing its characteristics, and for the paper given at the meeting.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

APRIL MEETING.

The last meeting of the present session was held at the Public Library, Moss Side, on April 10th, but the attendance was very disappointing. Mr. Green, the genial librarian, had made arrangements for a very pleasant and profitable visit, and it is much to be regretted that his audience was not larger. The following particulars, anent this interesting institution, may prove of interest to many who are unaware that it is situated in the locality where the Gaskells and the De Quinceys were at one time residents, being about three minutes' walk from the birth-place of Thomas De Quincey.

The Moss Side Public Library was founded in 1895. The foundation stone of the building was laid on September 5th, 1896, by Mr. W. E. A. Axon, LL.D., Chairman of the Library Committee, and the ceremony of opening the new Library was performed by the Duke of Argyll (then Marquis of Lorne), on May 8th, 1897, before a large assembly of people. Books were issued on July 1st. Donations in cash amounted to £74, and in books to 1,500 volumes. A handsome donation, consisting of 1,030 volumes, in all departments of literature, was made out of the fund collected by the Moss Side Committee formed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Other donations have since been made by public bodies and private persons.

Special collections in the Library are devoted to Thomas De Quincey, Mrs. Gaskell, Printing, and Moss Side, and the total contents of the Library now approximate 10,000 volumes. The classification is that of Dewey, while card-charging is used, without indicators of any kind, with every success, and the catalogue is being issued in parts. In showing his visitors round, Mr. Green informed them that his special collections being still in the process of formation he must ask them to deal gently with them when comparing his collections with others in larger and wealthier institutions. The De Quincey collection is especially interesting, containing as it does many relics of that great writer, and when time permits Mr. Green to finish his bibliography of De Quincey, students of literature will find much valuable information in the work.

A cordial vote of thanks having been accorded Mr. Green, the proceedings terminated.

JUNE EXCURSION.

The N.W. Committee have to announce that the annual excursion of the members and friends has been arranged to take place on Saturday, 15th June, and particulars of the same will appear in the next number of this journal. Members are requested to keep the date open.

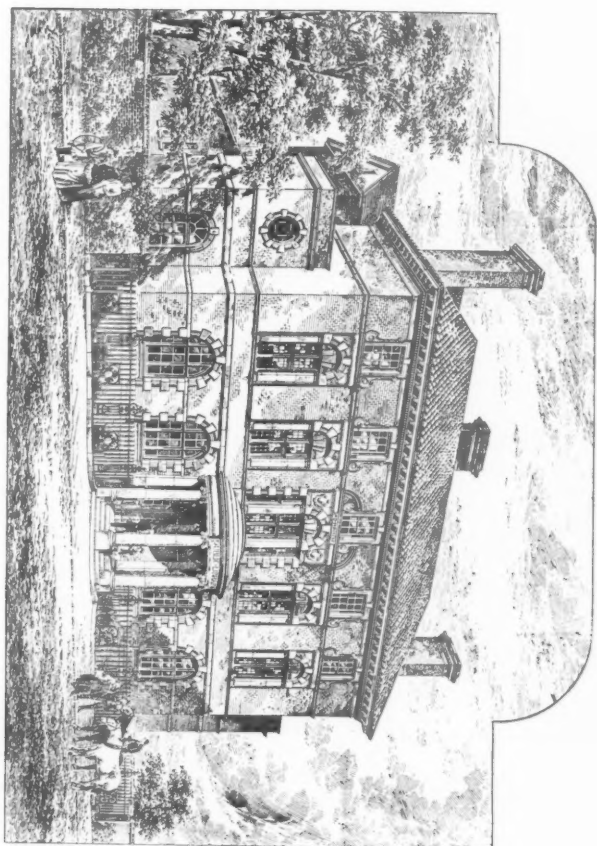
CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The Public Libraries Acts were adopted for Chelsea in May, 1887, by a large majority of the voters, the agitation which led to this result having been commenced by Mr. B. W. Findon, who, later, served as a Commissioner.

The requisition to the Vestry, asking for the poll to be taken, contained such signatures as those of the Earl Cadogan, Lord Monkswell, the Right Hon. John Morley, and many others, showing that the Committee appointed to conduct the movement had the support of all classes in the parish, including the local press, which strongly advocated the adoption of the Acts. The Vestry of the time, however, passed an adverse resolution, but once the decision of the ratepayers was given, the Vestry did all in their power to put the Acts into force in the best possible way. Commissioners were appointed, who soon showed that they meant the Library to be the best the parish could afford, by appointing a representative to visit the principal public libraries in the provinces with a view to reporting upon their various methods of working. Mr. Quinn, the present librarian, was appointed from the Liverpool Free Libraries in November, 1887.

The Vestry granted the free use of rooms in the Town Hall, and they were opened in November, 1887, as a temporary Reading Room and Reference Library, pending the erection of a permanent building. Besides making a gift of money for the purchase of books, Earl Cadogan offered the Commissioners the freehold of any site on his estate which might be selected by them as best suited to their requirements, and after much deliberation the site of the present building in Manresa Road was generously given, and in February, 1890, the foundation stone of the new building was laid by the Countess Cadogan. Meanwhile, the requirements of the detached part of Chelsea known as Kensal Town had been considered, and a branch library decided upon. A building costing, with the site, £5,500, was opened to the public in January, 1890, and has from that time proved a most valuable and much appreciated institution to those in the neighbourhood. Under the provisions of the London Government Act, 1899, this Library has now been transferred to the Borough of Paddington, which has hitherto refused to adopt the Libraries Acts.

In January, 1891, the Central Library was opened by the Earl Cadogan. The opening ceremony took place in the reading room, and was attended by a very large gathering of people. The building cost £13,000, and is in three storeys, built of red brick with stone dressings. The entrance is through a large circular portico, supported by columns of Portland stone. On the ground floor is the reading room, lending library, boys' room, and the Queen Victoria Gallery. The reading room is a large and well-lighted room, 90 feet long, and will easily accommodate 220 persons. It is adorned by six columns of Devon marble. The lending library is designed to hold 30,000 vols. Upon the counter are two large show cases, and in these are displayed works of importance (other than fiction) added to the library from time to time. The value of these cases amply justifies their use, as is shown by the fact that, although they hold some 200 volumes, they have frequently to be refilled during the course of an evening. Another feature of this department is the issuing to borrowers of additional tickets, a student's and a music ticket, thus enabling readers to borrow three books at a time, including a volume of music. Card charging is the method of issue, and indicators are provided for fiction, but are only used to indicate books in or out. The boys' room is a feature of the building. It was designed for this purpose, and is not a room adapted as an afterthought. There are seats for about 40 boys. During the course of a winter evening this room may be seen, at almost any time between 5.30 and 9, filled to its utmost capacity. The



CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY.



THE QUEEN VICTORIA GALLERY, CHELSEA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Queen Victoria Gallery is the remaining room on the ground floor, and was promoted in 1897, by public subscription, to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This room, originally a ladies' reading room, was adapted to its present use over a year ago, and is filled with prints, drawings, and other things illustrative of the topography of the "Village of Palaces." Here also are a marble bust of Thomas Carlyle and a bronze statuette of Sir Thomas More, Chelsea's greatest worthies, these being given. The building is decorated throughout with works of art, chiefly gifts, connected more or less with the Borough. The library contains also the collection of relics of the poet Keats, lent by Sir Charles W. Dilke, M.P., who is a generous donor, both of money and books, to the library.

The reference reading room will accommodate 100 readers. The walls are at present decorated with a series of drawings of Old Chelsea, by Mr. W. W. Burgess, the copyright of which is vested in the Committee. Plans are now being completed for shelving this room at a cost of some £1,200, the books to be protected by glazed doors. Not the least interesting feature of this room is a large bookcase, open to the public, containing some 400 volumes. This case has now been in use for some considerable time, and has proved of great value to the many students using the room. The remainder of the books of the reference department are contained in the bookstore behind the present counter, and in direct communication with the stock of the lending department, as all books are available for use in the reference reading room.

By an arrangement with the Governors of the adjoining South-West London Polytechnic Institute, its students are permitted the use of the Library, and the extent to which they avail themselves of this privilege may be gathered from the fact that, at the present time, there are using the library, students from almost every borough in London, and from such far away places as King's Lynn in Norfolk, Bromley in Kent, Hampton Court, and other equally distant parts.

The present number of volumes on the shelves is 33,000, the additions averaging 2,000 volumes yearly. The collection includes many valuable books, principally dealing with the fine arts.

A.D.

L.A. EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The fourth series of classes held under the auspices of the L.A. Education Committee is now concluded, and the valuable lectures delivered by Mr. J. Henry Quinn on Cutter's "Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue," pp. 1-38, and Mr. Southward's equally

valuable lectures on "Historic Printing," call for more attention from library assistants than was, unfortunately, accorded them. The very poor attendance this year would, we believe, have been considerably swelled if our colleagues had fairly considered the indispensable character of the instruction which can nowhere be obtained by a pleasanter or more permanent method than at these classes. The practical application of cataloguing rules, with the frequent demonstration of the use of general information therewith, and the graphic view of the rise and progress of the art of printing, ought not to have been missed by any library assistant who could have attended them.

Examinations in connection with this course will be held at 20 Hanover Square, at 3.30 p.m., as follows:—Mr. Quinn's class, Wednesday, May 8th; Mr. Southward's class, Wednesday, May 15th. Mr. H. D. Roberts, Hon. Secretary L.A. Education Committee, 44a Southwark Bridge Road, S.E., will be glad to receive the names of candidates without delay.

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

There were three candidates at the recent examination. The passes were as follow:—

Miss Massé, St. George, Hanover Square; Bibliography, English Literature.

Mr. W. F. Rapple, Queen's College Library, Belfast; English Literature, Library Management.

Mr. P. H. Wood, St. George-the-Martyr; Library Management.

THE STUDY CIRCLE.

There is a slight increase in the number of papers sent in this month, the total being 17 senior and 8 junior.

A general improvement is also visible in the answers, particularly the senior papers, one of which secured the full number of marks obtainable—the first time this has been done.

The Committee wish to point out that a number of students forgot to state whether they were "senior" or "junior." This necessitated the opening of their sealed envelopes to discover which they were. Students will greatly help if, in the future, they will head their papers after this fashion:—

"Answers to Questions set for April Work." By "ASSISTANT."
(SENIOR, or JUNIOR, as the case may be.)

The Committee would urge "Struggler" to exercise more care with his writing and composition, the same remark applying to "Apiarist," whose spelling may also be improved. "Wyvern"

typed his paper when it should have been written, as hand-writing is an important item. The junior with the Welsh pen-name is weak in composition; "Adonis" forgot the cataloguing question, and lost marks in consequence.

In last month's report on the quarter's work a mistake occurred, "Bookworm" being credited with only one paper and 215 marks, whereas it should have been two papers and 455 marks.

MODEL ANSWERS.

1.—A proof-reader ought to be a practical printer, with a good education, and he should thoroughly understand the technicalities of his profession. A knowledge of languages, especially French and Latin, will prove valuable to him, and he should also possess some knowledge of literature, and good general information. In addition, he must be very patient, keen to discern anything wrong, and accurate and methodical in correcting it. It is an eminently intelligent and responsible calling, and is only of late receiving the public recognition due to it. When correcting, it is important that the proof-reader should not become engrossed in the literary matter before him and allow typographical errors to escape; yet he must follow the sense of it in such a manner as to detect any flagrant error in statement that the author may fall into; a difficult task indeed.

2.—Edmund Spenser (1552-1598-9) was one of the three poets since Chaucer whom Sir Philip Sidney in his "Defense of Poesie," judged "to have any poetical sinews in them." This was written about 1579 soon after the appearance of that brilliant pastoral "The Shepheards Calendar," which gained its author the chief place in the literary circles of the day, and the more substantial position of secretary to Lord Grey de Wilton, Viceroy of Ireland. Unhappily, Sidney did not live to see the publication of "The Faerie Queene" (1590-96), by which his friend proved himself to be not only the finest English poet who had yet appeared, but also one of the greatest of all time; this was the more to be regretted because the lofty idealism, the melodious verse, and the nobility of moral tone which characterises the poem throughout, would not have failed to appeal very strongly to a man of Sidney's temperament.

In reading "The Faerie Queene" one has an intense impression of a noble soul expressing itself with quite an extraordinary sweetness and directness: it is a vision of beauty, "a joy for ever." Yet Spenser was by no means an idle dreamer; he had a decided turn for satire, and with this weapon he often lays about him right lustily; whilst sometimes, as in "Prothalamion" and "Epithalamion," he gives us a glorious outburst of spontaneous song.

On the other hand, Lamb was undoubtedly right when he named Spenser "the poet's poet," for his work is essentially of an esoteric character; he will never lack admirers, but these will be found rather among those who love poetry for poetry's sake.

A couplet of Boileau's on another occasion admirably sums up our impression; he was

". grave without constraint,
Great without pride, and lovely without paint."

During the Tyrone rebellion Spenser's home at Kilcolman was sacked, and one of his children burned. He himself fled with the rest of his family to England, where he died poor and broken-hearted, but not forgotten, in January, 1598-99.

3.—Jean Baptiste Poquelin Molière, born at Paris in 1622, is perhaps the greatest comedian (in the strict sense of the word) that the world has ever seen. More than any other French writer he is identified with the peculiar genius of his country. With his mordant wit, his irrepressible gaiety, and the logical turn of his mind, he is the archetype of the Frenchman of genius. Like Shakespeare, his figure is obscured by such a chaos of myth and legend, that few well-authenticated facts of his life have come down to us.

The wave of enthusiasm for the drama which swept over Europe in his early manhood carried him also towards the theatre, and between 1645-1660 we find him wandering to and fro in the land at the head of a company of strolling players. In this way he gained deep and varied experience of every condition of life, and a habit of plucking the heart out of things and laying bare the hidden springs of human action. During these years he wrote several farces and light comedies after the Italian manner, first sketches for his later masterpieces; but it was not until the appearance of "Les Précieuses ridicules" in 1659 that the great dramatic poet was revealed. From that date he added triumph to triumph until his genius reached its culminating point with "Le Misanthrope" (1666), "Tartuffe" (1667), and "L'Avare" (1668). Perhaps his most obvious fault is that, like Ben Jonson's, his characters represent types of human nature rather than the breathing image of life as it actually is. Molière hated servility of thought and deceit, and his life was one long campaign against falsehood and hypocrisy. He was the first to recognise and seize the weapon most dreaded by Frenchmen—ridicule. There is something so deliberately cruel in his wit that one sometimes feels it in one's heart to pity the unhappy wretch who falls foul of his satire; not that Molière spares his own feelings; on the contrary, he is never more merciless than when he holds his own failings up to scorn. His is the ridicule that kills. In France, everything he attacked is in ruins. The characters he created are immortal. The last scene of his life is characteristic; it discovers the great moralist, a dying man, playing the part of the hypochondriac in his comedy, "Le malade imaginaire" (1673), thus with his last breath mocking at Death, and ridiculing the impotence of the doctors who claimed power to avert it.

4.—The difference between the references (a) *See* and (b) *See also* is, that no entries are given under the name or heading referred from by the word *See*, the appropriate entries being collected under the name or heading referred to; whilst *See also* refers from one name or subject to a connected name or a cognate subject, for additional information.

(a) *Synonymous headings*:—

HORTICULTURE. *See* GARDENING.

ENTOMOLOGY. *See* INSECTS.

Joint-authors (when there is only one entry under the names after the first):—

SMITH, I. G., and W. GRUNDY. Aristotelianism.

GRUNDY, W. *See* SMITH, I. G.

GREEN, JOHN, and others. Voyage to Tristan d'Acunha.

GREY, W. M. *See* GREEN, JOHN.

BROWN, FREDERICK. *See* GREEN, JOHN.

Artist to author:—

JACCACCI, JAMES. On the trail of Don Quixote. Illustrated by Daniel Vierge.

VIERGE, DANIEL. *See* JACCACCI, JAMES.

Editor, compiler, or translator (when there is only one entry) to author:—

CRANMER, THOMAS. Remains. 4 vols. Ed. by H. Jenkins.

JENKINS, H. *See* CRANMER, T.

FROISSART, Sir JOHN. *Chronicles*. Trans. by Lord Berners.
 BERNERS, Lord. *See* FROISSART, Sir JOHN.

Compound names:—

WATTS-DUNTON, THEODORE. *See* DUNTON, T. WATTS-.

Pseudonyms, or changed names:—

'DAGONET.' *See* SIMS, G. R.

CRAIGIE, Mrs. PEARL. *See* HOBBS, JOHN OLIVER.

SIGERSON, DORA. *See* SHORTER, Mrs. D. S.

(b) Cognate, or connected subject:—

ASIA. *See also* Arabia, China, India, etc.

FAIRY TALES. *See also* Folk-lore.

GEOLOGY. *See also* Coal, Earthquakes, Mineralogy.

MIDDLE AGES. *See also* Chivalry, Crusades, Feudalism.

Joint-authors (where there are more entries than one to the names after the first):—

LANG, ANDREW. *Monk of Fife*.

— *See also* HAGGARD, H. R.

HAGGARD, H. R., and ANDREW LANG. *World's Desire*.

Editor, compiler, or translator (when there are more entries than one) to author:—

POLLARD, A. W. *Chaucer (Literature primer)*.

— *See also* CHAUCER.

CHAUCER, G. *Works*. Ed. by A. W. Pollard.

MAY READINGS.

JACOBI.—Pp. 212-247. Note the different types of presses in use.

BROOKE.—Chap. vii., and concurrently a novel by Richardson, Fielding's "Amelia," Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," or Miss Burney's "Evelina."

SAINTSBURY.—Chap. viii.

QUINN.—Pp. 95-105.

QUESTIONS ON APRIL WORK.

JACOBI.—Say what you can about woodcut printing.

BROOKE.—Give a short account of the works of Pope, and name his principal works.

SAINTSBURY.—Name some works of Le Sage.

QUINN.—Take one work on each of the following subjects, and catalogue fully under subject only, giving all the references needed:—

Literature in general.

English Literature.

French do.

German do.

Italian do.

Language in general.

English Language.

French do.

German do.

Italian do.

All papers must be addressed to the Hon. Secretary of the Study Circle Sub-Committee, Mr. W. B. Thorne, St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., and should reach this address not later than the first post on May 15th.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A meeting of the above Society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute on Wednesday evening, April 17th, when Mr. J. Radcliffe (East Ham) read a paper entitled "How to popularise our Libraries."

NEW MEMBERS.

Messrs. W. H. Seed, Arthur Hesketh, H. Haworth (*all of Accrington*); and Richard Loney (*St. George, E.*)

APPOINTMENTS.

Corns, Mr. A. R., Sub-Librarian, South Shields, to be Librarian, Lincoln.

Mackenzie, Mr. W. M., Sub-Librarian, Wigan, to be Sub-Librarian, Aberdeen.

NOTICES.

Communications relating to the Journal and its publishing should be addressed to the *Hon. Editor*, Mr. Henry Ogle, 60, Constantine Road, N.W.

Subscriptions should be paid to the *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. W. G. Chambers, Public Library, Walthamstow, Essex. Senior Members, 5/-; Junior Members, 2/6; including a copy of the Journal monthly. Subscription to the Journal 3/- per annum to non-members, post paid.

All other communications should be addressed to the *Hon. Secretary, pro tem.*, Mr. G. E. Roebuck, 236, Cable Street, E.





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